ANTIPAS

OR,

The Dying Teſtimony of

Mr. James Renwick

Miniſter of the Goſpel, who Suffered at the *Graſs-Market* of *Edinburgh*, *Feb.* 17. 1688.

His Sentence was founded on theſe following Heads

1. *Becauſe he could not own* James *the* VII, *to be his Lawful Sovereign.*
2. *Becauſe he taught the Unlawfulneſs of* Paying the Ceſs, *expreſly exacted for Suppreſſing of the Faithful and free Preaching of the Goſpel.*
3. *Becauſe he taught, that it was the People's Duty,* to carry Arms *at the Preaching of the Goſpel (when it was Perſecuted) for Defending of themſelves, and reſiſting of unjuſt Violence.*

Gen. 4. 10 And he ſaid, What haſt thou done? the voice of thy Brothers Blood cryeth unto me from the Ground. Pſal. 78. 64. Their prieſts fell by the ſword, Pſ. 79. 2. The Dead Bodies of thy ſervants, &c. 3 Their Blood have they ſhed like water round about Jeruſalem. *Lam.* 2. 20. Shall the prieſt and the prophet be ſlain in the ſanctuary of the Lord. *Rev.* 2. 10 Be thou Faithful unto Death, and I will give thee a crown of Life. *Rev.* 6. 9. I ſaw under the Altar the ſouls of them that were ſlain, for the word of God, and for the Teſtimony which they held. 10 and 11 verſes, &c. *Rev.* 7. 13 What are theſe &c. and whence came they? 14 v. And he ſaid to me, Theſe are they which came out of great tribulation, &c.

The Dying Teſtimony of Mr. James Renwick *Miniſter of the Goſpel, to the Truths and Duties for which he was Judged, and others Contraverted in our time, who Suffered at the* Graſs-Market *in* Edinburgh, February 17*th.* 1688. *Emitted from his own Hand the day before his Suffering, &c.*

My Dear Friends in CHRIST,

IT hath pleaſed the Lord to deliver me up into the Hands of Men, and I think fit to ſend you this Salutation, which I expect will be the laſt, when I poſe my Heart upon it, before God; I dare not deſire to have eſcaped this Lot, for no leſs could have been for his Glory and Vindication of his Cauſe on my behalf: And as I am free before him of the Prophainity, which ſome either naughty wicked, or ſtrangers to me, have Reported that I have been ſometime Guilty of; So he hath kept me from the Womb, free of the ordinary Polution of Children, as theſe that hath been acquainted with me throu' the Tract of my Life do know, and now my Blood ſhall either more ſilence Reproaches or more Ripen them for Judgment, but I hope it ſhall make ſome more, ſparing to ſpeak of thoſe who ſhall come after me; and ſo I am the more willing to pay this Coſt, for their Inſtruction, and my Succeeders eaſe, ſince I came to Priſon; The Lord hath been wonderfully kind to me, he has made his Word to give me Light, Life, Joy, Courage, and Strength, Yea, it hath dropped with ſweet Smelling Myrrh unto me; particularly theſe paſſages and promiſes, *Gen:* 22: 12. *latter part of the Verſe. For now I know that thou feareſt God, ſeeing thou haſt not withheld*

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thy Son, thine only Son. Neh: 8. 10. *later part of the Verse. Neither be you sorry, for the Joy of the Lord is your Strength.* Job 3, 17. *There the Wicked cease from troubling, and there the weary be at rest.* 18. *There the Prisoners rest together, they hear not the voice of the oppressor.* Job 23. 10. *But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as Gold.* 11. *My foot hath held his steps, his ways have I kept, and not declined.* 12 *Neither have I gone back from the Commandment of his Lips, I have esteemed the words of his Mouth more than my necessary food.* 13. *But he is of one mind, and who can turn him? and what his Soul desireth, even that he doth,* 14. *For he performeth the things that he is appointed for me: and many such things are with him.* Psal: 105, *later part of the Verse. The word of the Lord tryed him.* Luke 21. 12: *But before all these they shall lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the Synagogues, and into Prisons, being brought before Kings and Rulers for my Name sake.* 13. *And it shall turn to you for a Testimony.* 19 *In your patience possess ye your Souls.* The Gospel according to S. *John.* Heb: 12. 13. *To the General Assembly and Church of the first Born, which are written in Heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the Spirits of Just Men made perfect.* Jam: 1. 12, *Blessed is the Man that endureth Temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the Crown of Life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.* Peter 5. 7. *Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you.* 8. *Be sober, be vigilent, because your Adversary the Devil, as a roaring Lyon, walketh about seeking whom he may devour.* Rev: 3. 8. *I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it; for thou hast a little Strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denyed my Name.* 10. *Because thou hast kept the word of my Patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of Temptation, which shall come upon all the World, to try them that dwell upon the Earth.* 11. *Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast*

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which thou haſt, that no man take thy crown. 12. *Him that overcometh, will I make a pillar in the Temple of my God, and he ſhall go no more out: and I will write upon him the Name of my God, & the Name of the City of my God, which is new Jeruſalem, which cometh down out of Heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new Name.* Rev, 19. 20. *And the Beaſt was taken, and with him the falſe Prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beaſt, and them that worſhipped his Image. Theſe both were caſt into a lake of Fire burning with Brimſtone.* 21. *And the remnant were ſlain with the Sword of him that ſat upon the horſe. Which Sword proceedeth out of his mouth: and all the Fowls were filled with their fleſh.* And many other Scriptures.

O what can I ſay to the Lords praiſe! it was but little that I knew of him before I came to Priſon; I have found ſenſibly much of his divine ſtrength, much of the joy of his Spirit, and much aſſurance from his Word and Spirit, concerning my Salvation, my Sufferrings are ſtated upon the Matter of my Doctrine, for there was found with me, the ſum of my laſt two Sermons at *Braids*-Craigs, which I wrote after I Preached them; The former thereof was upon *Pſ:* 46. 10. *Be ſtill, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the Heathen, I will be exalted in the Earth.* And the later upon *Heb:* 10: 38: *Now the juſt ſhall live by Faith: but if any Man draw back, my Soul ſhall have no pleaſure in him.* And ſo I was examined upon the Application made therein unto the Sins of the time: All which I owned once and again, as it is to be ſeen in my Indictment, and I being tried, and an Aſſize ſet; I adhered to my former Confeſſion Explicitly, ſo my Sentence of Death was drawn forth, upon theſe three Heads.

Firſt, *Becauſe I could not own* James *the* VII, *to be my lawful Soverain.*

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Secondly, *Becáuſe I taugh,t the unlawfulneſs of paying the Ceſs expreſly exacted for ſuppreſſing the Faithful,& freePreaching of the Goſpel.*

Thirdly, *Becauſe I taught,it was thePeoples duty to c irry Arms, at the Preaching of the Goſpel,now when it is perſecuted for Defending of themſelves, and reſiſting of unjuſt violenee.*

I think ſuch a Teſtimony, is worth many Lives, and I praiſe the LORD for his enabling me to be plain and poſitive in all my Confeſſions; for therein I foundPeace, Joy, ſtrength and boldneſs. I have met with many Aſſaults in Priſon, ſome from ſome of the *Indulged Party*, and ſome from ſome of the Prelaticks; but by the ſtrength of God I was enabled to ſtand, that they could neither bow me nor break me: I was alſo Aſſaulted by ſome of the Popiſh Party, I ſuppoſe they were ſome of the Eccleſiaſtical Creatures; but they found none of their own Stuff in me, I told them after ſundry Debatings, That I had lived and ſhould die an Enemie to their way: Howſoever ſome that knew me not, Reproached me vvith *Jeſuitiſm*: I was preſſed by Sundry to ſeek a Reprive, and my Anſvver vvas alvvays, That I adhered to my former Confeſſion, and if they pleaſed to let the appointed time of my Death ſtand, let it ſtand, and if they pleaſed to protract it. Let them protract it, for I was ready and vvilling both to live and to die, Hovvbeit their came a Reprive for eight days but I had no hand in it; They ſtill urged, vvould I but ſay that I deſired time for Conference vvith ſome Perſons anent my Principles: I Anſvvered, That my Time vvas in the Lords Hands, and I vvas in no Heſitation or doubt about my Principles my ſelf, I would not be ſo rude as to decline conference with any, ſo far as it might not be inconvenient for me in my preſent Circumſtances, but I will ſeek it with none. I have no more to ſay upon this Head, but my Heart

doth not smite me for any thing in the Matters of my God, since I came to Prison: And I can further say to his praise with some Conscienciousness of Integrity, That I have walked in his Way and kept his Charge, though with much Weakness, and many infirmities, whereof ye have been Witnesses. Now my dear Friends in precious Christ, I think I need not tell you; that as I have Lived, so I Die in the same perswasion, with the true Reformed and Covenanted Presbyterian Church of *Scotland*, that I adhere to the Testimony of the Day, as it is held forth in our Informatorie Vindication, and in the Testimony against the present Toleration; and that I own, and Seal with my Blood all the precious Truths, even the Contraverted Truths that I have Taught: So I would exhort every one of you, to make sure your Personal Reconciliation with God in Christ; for I fear many of you have that yet to do, and when ye come where I am to look pale death in the Face, ye will not be a little Shaken and Terrified, if ye have not laid hold on Eternal Life. I would exhort you to much Diligence in the use of the means, to be careful in keeping up your Societies, to be frequent and fervent in secret Prayer, to Read much the Written Word of God, and to examine your selves by it: do not wearie to maintain in your places and stations the present Testimony; for when Christ goes forth to defeat Antichrist; with that Name Written on his Thigh and on his Vesture *King of kings, and Lord of lords*, he will make it Glorious in the Earth, and if ye can but Transmit it to the Posterity, ye may count it a great Generations work, *But beware of the Ministers, that have accepted of this Toleration, and all others that bend that way, and follow them not, for the Sun hath gone down upon them.* Do not fear that the Lord will cast off *Scotland*, for he will certainly return again, and shew himself Glorious in our Land, but watch and pray, for he is bring-

bringing on a sad overthrowing streak, which shall make many say, That they have easily got thorow, that hath got a Scaffold for Christ, and do not regard the present sufferings of this World, *for they are not worthy to be compared to the Glory that shall be revealed*, I may say to his praise, that I have found his Cross sweet and lovely unto me; for I have had many Joyful hours, and not a fearful thought since I came to Prison; He hath strengthened me, for to outbreath Man, and outface Death. And I am now longing for the joyful hour of my Dissolution, and there is nothing in the World, that I am sorry to leave but you, *But I go to better company*, & so I must take my leave of you all. *Farewell, beloved Sufferers, and followers of the Lamb; Farewell Christian intimacy; Farewell Christian and Comfortable Mother, and Sisters; Farewell sweet Societies; Farewell desireable General Meetings; Farewell Night-wandrings, in cold and weariness for Christ; Farewell sweet Bible, and Preaching of the Gospel; Farewell Sun, Moon, and Stars, and all Sublunarie things; Farewell Conflicts with a Body of Sin and Death.---- Welcome Scaffold, for precious Christ; Welcome Heavenly Jerusalem; Welcome innumerable Company of Angels; Welcome General Assembly, and Church of the First-Born; Welcome Crown of Glory, white Robes, and Songs of* Moses *and the Lamb; And above all, Welcome O thou Blessed Trinity and one God! O Eternal One! I commit my Soul into thy Eternal rest*

Feb, 13th. 1688. JAMES RENWICK

My Dear Friends in Christ,

I *See now what hath been the Language of my Reprive, it hath been, that I might be further Tempted and Tryed, and I praise the Lord he hath assisted me, to give further proofs of stedfastness; I have been often assaulted by some Popish Priests, but the last time they came, I told them, I would Debate no more with such*

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as they were, and that I had Lived and would Die a Presbyterian Protestant, and testifie against the Idolatrous, Heresies, Superstitions, and errors of that Antichristian way; but Yesterday I was cast into deep Exercise, and made to dwell under an Impression of the Dreadfulness of every thing, that might grieve the Spirit of God. I found Sin to be more Bitter than Death, and one Hours hiding of Gods Face, more insupportable. And then at Night, I was called before a part of the Council, and the Chancellor produced the Informatorie Vindication, and asked if I knew it; I answered, I knew it; And being interrogat, I confessed that I had a great hand in Writting of it, they pressed me to tell my Assistances, I told them they were those whom they persecuted, but would satisfie them no further; they also urged me upon pain of Torture; to tell where our Societies were, who kept our General Correspondances, and where they were kept. I Answered, though they should Torture me, which was contrar to all Laws after Sentence of Death, I would give them no further notice than the Books gave. I was moreover threatned to tell of my Haunts and Quarters, but I refused to make known to them any such thing; So I was returned to Prison. Such Exercise as I had, was very needful for such a Tryal; And I would rather endure what they could do unto me; Then, have dishonoured Christ, Offended you, and brought you into Trouble:---But I hope within less than three days, to be without the reach of all Temptations.

Now I have no more to say, Farewell again, *in our Blessed* LORD JESUS.

Feb. 15*th.* 1688. Jam es Renwick.